

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, a new abstract has been provided in single paragraph format and in a form that is consistent with the guidelines of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and MPEP §608.01(b). In addition, original claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and have been replaced with new claims 8-18. The new claims relate to subject matter within the original claims, but without using multiple dependency. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability and that applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the invention encompassed by the original multiple dependent claims or described in the specification

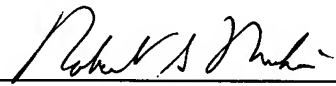
Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 23, 2005

By: 
Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620